

much of his personal life for the Committee. He possesses a sharp wit and a quick mind. He is a true gentleman in every sense, and a wonderful human being. Pete is a fine leader and helped me assemble an outstanding staff which has, for the most part, remained with the Committee during both his tenures.

As he leaves the Hill for the second time, he does so with the gratitude of his Chairman and all the members of the Ways and Means Committee with whom he has worked. He will be greatly missed, but he can derive great satisfaction in the knowledge of his contribution to the Committee, the House of Representatives, and his beloved country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2000

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to modernize and strengthen the Social Security Administration in preparation for the oncoming baby boom retirement. This legislation completes the spirit of the laws Congress has enacted three times since 1983—taking the last of Social Security expenditures off-budget and removing SSA's administrative funds from budgetary restraints which have nothing to do with Social Security's needs.

In preparation for the upcoming retirement wave, Congress and the administration clearly want Social Security resources dedicated only to Social Security to ensure promised benefits are paid. Ensuring responsive public service delivery by the Social Security Administration is part of that promise because worker's hard-earned payroll taxes directly support the running of the agency.

A recent report by the bipartisan Social Security Advisory Board concluded

There is a significant gap between the level of services that the public needs and that which the Agency is providing. Moreover, this gap could grow to far larger proportions in the long term if it is not adequately addressed.

This world-class delivery of services will become more difficult as the baby boom generation enters its peak disability years and then reaches retirement age starting in 2008. By 2010 Social Security retirement benefit claims are expected to rise by 16 percent and disability claims by 47 percent. For an agency facing a substantial number of retirements in its own workforce and high expectations from customers, that's a great challenge.

It may come as a surprise to both Congress and to Americans that part of Social Security is not wholly separated from the federal budget, but it is not. The administrative costs of running the agency and paying benefits are subject to discretionary spending caps—an on-budget restraint that could keep that agency from preparing for the challenge it will soon face as the baby boomers retire and disability cases soar.

Subjecting the agency's administrative funding to the caps really doesn't make sense.

After all, these costs are paid for with workers' payroll taxes from the Social Security Trust Fund—they are not paid for with general revenues. When these payroll taxes are used to pay benefits, they are considered off budget and not subject to the caps. But when the exact same payroll taxes are used to pay the administrative costs that support benefit payments, they are treated differently.

Mr. Speaker, my bill creates a new cap for SSA's administrative appropriations for the two remaining years the caps exist. This is not unprecedented. Congress felt that Social Security's responsibility to do Continuing Disability Reviews was so important, that it exempted those management costs many years ago. Since no caps exist after fiscal year 2002, Social Security administrative expenses will then go off-budget like the rest of the program.

However, to insure the public gets the service they paid for, my legislation still requires the Social Security Administration to go through the appropriations process and to defend that request to both the appropriations and authorizing committees.

Each year, new funding requests will be reviewed based upon the Commissioner's documentation that current and future tax dollars are meeting the mission and performance levels contained in the Agency's Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan. Open ended funding without results is not an option. Continued delivery of world-class service, along with ongoing progress on eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse will be demanded first.

I also want the Social Security Administration to be a fully integrated member of the new information age, so my bill provides for technology investment. The agency must submit a comprehensive procurement plan detailing the benefits, risks and returns from the investment. This plan will be updated biannually and GAO will provide the Congress with their assessment and recommendation on SSA's performance to guide our funding decisions.

The way to prepare Social Security for the future is to start now. We have committed ourselves to saving Social Security. Just as important must be our commitment to save the underlying program operation so critical in delivering the service needed by retirees, individuals with disabilities, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my Ways and Means colleague, Mr. CARDIN, for joining me as an original sponsor of this bill and note that this represents another bipartisan effort to strengthen the Social Security program for current and future retirees. I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this important, bipartisan legislation.

THE GREATEST GENERATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, most of America's soldiers are just ordinary people. They are people from all walks of life who are sometimes asked to do extraordinary things. Those of us who haven't served in the armed forces will never know the pain they

suffer or the hardships they can be asked to endure.

However, I do want them to know the depth of our gratitude.

For this reason, I'm happy to share with my colleagues a speech by Kootenai County Commissioner Ron Rankin entitled "The Greatest Generation," which emphasizes the sacrifices made by the World War II generation. He calls them this because they lived up to the challenges forced upon them by both our country's worst depression and our greatest war.

Commissioner Rankin knows the sacrifices made by this generation. He learned this as a Marine fighting the Communists and the violent seas at Incheon, Korea. We can never thank this generation enough, but I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to both Commissioner Rankin and the American servicemen who so bravely served our country. They met the challenges forced upon them in our country's hour of need.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I commend the example of Ron Rankin to my colleagues, and hereby submit to the RECORD for their consideration "The Greatest Generation" speech.

GREATEST GENERATION

(By Ron Rankin)

Fellow Veterans—Families and Friends of the Greatest Generation: In December of 1776, just five months after the Declaration of Independence had been signed and the thirteen colonies were swept up in the American Revolution, Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands now deserves the love and thanks of all men and women."

We . . . American's . . . greatest generation . . . are gathered here today to remember all of those great patriots who stood fast and held the line against tyranny, from the bridge at Concord to the sands of the Persian Gulf, and to say thank you . . . for without their courage, their dedication and their willingness to die for what was right, we would not be here today.

I didn't serve in the Navy but many of my Marine Corps brothers would not be here today were it not for Navy ships bombarding the beaches before the troops landed . . . and for the ships that shelled the enemy lines . . . directed by forward observers on the ground—miles from the ships that targeted the enemy with surgical precision.

Fifty years ago this very week, I climbed down the nets at the Incheon Landing executed by the Navy, fighting 30-foot tides, a landing which became an epic in Navy and Marine Corps history.

Until Korea, my first-hand knowledge of the Navy was troop ships, LST's and LCT's. Later in Korea, two regiments of the First Marine Division were completely surrounded by over 100 thousand Chinese troops on the top of icy mountains at the Chosin reservoir, 78 miles from the sea. . . Ten divisions of Chinese troops had determined to annihilate our Division. We survived, thanks in part to the constant, dawn to dark napalming of our perimeters by fighters many from carriers off the coast . . . keeping the Communist troops at bay while we regrouped for—our bloody fight to the sea.

My fellow Marines and I—members of the "Chosin Few"—owe an everlasting debt of gratitude to the heroes of the United States Navy for our survival. . . Our bond with the

Navy was sealed on October 14, 1989 when the guided missile cruiser USS Chosin was christened.

Others we remember today died so that we might enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Their legacy carries with it a tremendous burden—the responsibility to so live our lives that we may hold inviolate that for which we bravely fought and for which so many gave their lives . . . our freedom.

Freedoms won on distant battlefields and on distant seas can be lost in an instant here at home if we fail to carry on the fight against tyranny.

No one knows better than a Veteran that service to America does not end when you come home from war. We fought for freedom and we've seen our friends die for freedom, but in spite of the great sacrifices of our fallen patriots of the past, we have become a nation morally adrift—without compass or rudder, sacrificing the generations we fought and died for to an enemy we cannot see.

In our wars, fought on the seas and on the fields of battle, the enemy sailed great warships, he wore uniforms and carried weapons—rifles, bayonets, grenades—he was identifiable and we were armed and trained to recognize and defeat him and defeat him we did!

Today, another insidious enemy is already on our shores striking at the very soul of America. This enemy does not wear a uniform or fight with great ships at sea or with bayonets or grenades . . . or sneak attack our fleets at anchor. He is among us. He uses our media to desensitize us against threats from abroad . . . to lull us to sleep to facilitate future Pearl Harbors. He prays on the carnal desires of our communities. He pollutes our children's minds with filth and their bodies with drugs. He has taken God out of our institutions and desecrates our flag with the approval of our government. There are no distant drums of war signaling this peril—no Pearl Harbors, no foxholes, trenches, bayonets or grenades in this war. The ammunition is knowledge, which we must all continue to seek . . . and the battle is being fought in the city halls, the courthouses, the legislatures, and in the Congress, to rebuild our decaying military, to return dignity and respect to our men and women in uniform living on food stamps.

I say to you here today, you patriots and protectors of our progeny and their heritage, as Patrick Henry stated, "the enemy is in the field . . . why stand we here idle?"

Thank God we survived the wars. Thank God that our fallen buddies . . . patriots all . . . cared enough about our country and its future that they laid down their lives to preserve it, and thank God that with His help, we may have the strength and determination to carry on and make this again the "One Nation Under God" for which we served and our buddies died. It is a tremendous responsibility, but we owe it to them and to future generations.

The future begins today, the future begins with us. May God continue to bless America and may He bless us all in our righteous endeavors.

For this I ask humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEROLD L. SCHIEBLER

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to pay tribute to Dr. Gerold L. Schiebler, the Associate Vice President for Health Affairs for External Relations at the University of Florida Health Science Center and a Distinguished Service Professor with the Department of Pediatrics (Cardiology). Dr. Schiebler is a very special doctor and advocate for health-care issues who I am sorry to say is retiring by the end of the year after 40 years of unselfish service to children, to medicine, to the University of Florida Health Science Center and to Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida.

Let me start off by telling you a little bit about this man's remarkable background.

Growing up, Dr. Schiebler probably never realized that he was destined to be a great physician. He started off—like so many great Americans—quite modestly. In fact, as recounted by his longtime friend Clarence Burkey, at the completion of the meal at a recent awards dinner, the person seated next to Dr. Schiebler said, I can tell that you are a child of the depression era because you 'cleaned up' your plate." That begins to describe the early years of a first generation child of German immigrants. They lived in and were a part of the Borough of Hamburg, a small middle class Pennsylvania-German community, where frugality, pride, and self-sufficiency were the rules.

In high school he was an excellent student, class president and class valedictorian. Years later and as part of her life recollections, former grade school principal, Ella Scholl, remarked that he was "the smartest person that had ever graduated from Hamburg High." Mrs. Scholl's late husband had also been the high school principal for many years. Dr. Schiebler attended Franklin and Marshall College where he graduated magna cum laude and then graduated from Harvard Medical School. His medical internship and residency were at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Mayo Clinic. While in residency at the Mayo Clinic, Clarence Burkey recalls, "During a visit to Hamburg, Gerold called at the home of my mother to inquire of my whereabouts. He noticed that there was something medically wrong with her. He looked at her medication and then told her that she was taking the wrong thyroid medicine. That visit added more than a decade to her life."

This was clearly only the beginning of what would be a very long and distinguished career for the 72-year-old physician.

Throughout his medical career, Dr. Schiebler was an influential member of numerous professional societies, including the Society for Pediatric Research and the American Pediatric Society. He also wrote or co-wrote 86 peer-reviewed articles published in medical journals, authored four books and wrote 10 chapters for inclusion in other medical texts—predominantly on the subject of cardiac disease in children. As his published writings make clear, over time, he truly became an expert in his field.

But he also became much more than that. As he grew into the role of teacher and mentor, he became an expert at creating experts. Many of his former faculty members are proof of his ability and commitment to helping younger colleagues grow and succeed. Today, many are chairmen or deans at institutions throughout the country.

In fact, you can even say that his 17-year tenure as the Chairman of Pediatrics at the University of Florida was legendary. Residents joked that he could read an EKG and then be able to tell the patient's age, hometown and referring physician!

Dr. Milton Morris, Director of Governmental Relations at the University of Florida, said he has learned a great deal from Dr. Schiebler over the years. "He was a mentor to me and he taught me how to be a mentor. He taught me the advantage of investing in the future," Dr. Morris said. "He has a love of, and faith in, medical students. He provided students with experience in politics, in the medical profession and encouraged them to become contributing members of society."

I had the pleasure of getting to know a 21-year-old University of Florida medical student this summer who considers herself one of Dr. Schiebler's biggest fans. Joy Kunishige interned in my Washington office this summer after coming to me highly recommended by Dr. Schiebler—a man she says will always have a very special place in her heart.

Despite his many accomplishments, Joy says, Dr. Schiebler makes time to help and support aspiring students.

"I have no idea how to thank Dr. Schiebler for all he has done for me," Joy said. "I always tell him, 'please let me know how I can help you.' The last time I said this he said, 'When you're in a position to do so, someone else will come and ask you for the same thing. You can return the favor then.'"

Former student turned Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs Dr. Robert T. Watson says, "Dr. Schiebler is easily one of the most amazing people I have ever known. He possesses the ability to keep track of an infinite number of things and has a deep and sincere commitment to medical education. I don't know anyone else like that. I don't think a team could replace him."

Ann Groves, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Schiebler for 25 years, agrees. She said, "He can generate more work in five minutes than a team can in five months and while Dr. Schiebler is telling us what to do, he is also writing it down and doing it!"

He is also well known for his uncanny ability to remember details about people. He knows your middle name. He knows where your parents grew up. He just knows. He has an ability to make everyone feel special and important. These are qualities that have enabled him to succeed and develop great personal and professional relationships wherever he goes.

Part of the reason for this success is his ability to be quick on his feet—literally. Rarely one to take an elevator, he walked the halls of the Florida State Capitol so much—up and down flights of stairs—that his wife, Audrey, once bought him a pedometer. When asked where the pedometer went, Dr. Schiebler replied, "When I looked how far I had walked, I threw it away!" Each legislative session, Ann